

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

April 29, 2003      LB 407

budget cuts and budget reductions. There's a cause and effect of changing taxes, raising taxes, lowering taxes, whatever the case might be, but the fact is that there is a cause and effect. And Senator Thompson pointing out the fact of what would her parents think I guess reminds me earlier this session when someone couldn't reach me at home and so they called my dad at his office and threatened to campaign against me when I ran for reelection. Well, I think you know that we're term limited and so that was interesting. But I guess it probably doesn't help to contact my parents. They're constituents, but certainly there are 34,000 some odd other constituents as well. But I digress. I want to point out that there's a cause and effect to everything that we do and I think that we need to be mindful of that. With that, I would yield any balance of my time to Senator Raikes.

**SPEAKER BROMM:** Senator Raikes, you have approximately 2 minutes and 30 seconds.

**SENATOR RAIKES:** Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Senator Smith. I wanted to just continue or talk a little bit about some of the comments that Senator Brashear made in his focus on the out years of the biennium. And I...it's become customary for Senator Brashear to represent vision and looking into the future, and I commend him for that. I would suggest, though, that we don't get too much bogged down in that right now. First off, the revenue forecasting technique that's used in the out biennium is not only sensible but it also has worked fairly well. In effect, what happens is that you pick revenue growth numbers in that out biennium so that the five-year average, including those two years and the three before, equals the actual average experienced. It's sensible, it has worked well, and the interesting thing about it, it's a forecasting technique that predicts turning points. This is often the most difficult thing to do in making forecasts. You always want to assume that whatever is happening lately is going to continue on to happen forever. This forces you out of the rut. So I would not think it appropriate that we discard that technique at the moment. It has been accurate and it is also sensible. The other thing, the \$800 million, the \$800-plus million,...